



University College Dublin  
Ireland's Global University



# Doctoral Studies The PhD Programme at University College Dublin

[www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies)



# DOCTORAL STUDIES

## THE UCD PHD



### The UCD PhD enables UCD PhD students achieve the best possible experience of graduate research and training.

Making a substantial and original contribution to knowledge, normally leading to peer-reviewed publications remains the core objective of doctoral studies. The UCD PhD includes several innovative measures designed to support you in achieving your academic and professional objectives. A PhD typically takes 4 years (or 12 trimesters) full-time to complete. The examination for the degree of PhD is based on a description of the candidate's research written up as a thesis. A specific PhD Examination Committee is convened to conduct the oral examination (*Viva Voce*) of the candidate.

This leaflet gives you an overview of some of the key aspects of the UCD PhD and provides information on how to apply for a PhD position in UCD.

## THE UCD PHD PROGRAMME

### Principal Supervisor(s)

You will have a Principal Supervisor assigned to you (and in some cases a co-supervisor if that is appropriate) who has overall responsibility for your research training.

### Research Studies Panel

In addition to your supervisor(s), your School (or Thematic Doctoral Programme) will appoint a Research Studies Panel for you early in your first year. The purpose of the Research Studies Panel is to support and enhance the supervisor-student relationship, to monitor your progress during the course of your doctoral studies and to provide advice and support both to you and your supervisor(s).

### Research and Professional Development Planning

Research and professional development planning is an integral part of the PhD programme at UCD. The purpose of such planning is to ensure that your work is clearly focused on achieving your research and professional development goals. This will play a major part in informing the trajectory of your PhD research and in your training and development as a researcher.

For further information on the RPDP please visit:

[www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/  
currentgradstudents/researchphdsupport/](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents/researchphdsupport/)





## Transferable Skills Training

As a PhD graduate, your skill-set will naturally include the advanced research and analytical techniques required to undertake high level research in your field. You will also be expected to possess a range of transferable skills, relevant to the successful completion of your research project and to broader career development [www.iaa.ie/students-graduates/graduate-education/](http://www.iaa.ie/students-graduates/graduate-education/) Taught modules, online modules and workshops covering a wide range of transferable skills and research skills topics are available to assist you which are provided by your School, College, professional services and UCD Graduate Studies. Credit bearing activities will be recorded on your academic transcript. Please visit [www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentstudents/transferableskills/](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentstudents/transferableskills/)

## Progression

Doctoral studies comprise two stages: Stage 1 is a period when you define your research plan, develop your research skills and initiate original research work for your doctorate. Stage 2 is primarily dedicated to continuing your original doctoral research but may also include some advanced education and training. In order to progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of your doctoral programme you must undergo a transfer assessment to establish that you are making progress and have the competence and capacity to complete the proposed research.

## Regulations, Policies and Codes of Practice

The regulations, policies and codes of practice governing the UCD Structured PhD Programme are available at:

<https://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/currentgradstudents/regulationspolicies/>



## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ A candidate must have reached a minimum of an upper second class degree or equivalent in a relevant honours Bachelor's degree. In a significant number of cases, a Master's degree will also be required. Specific information on entry requirements can be found on the relevant UCD School website.
- ✓ All applicants are required to demonstrate a high level of competence in the English language. Applicants who have not undertaken their undergraduate degree / Master's degree through English must provide evidence of their English proficiency by achieving a minimum standard in a recognised English language test such as IELTS. [www.ucd.ie/registry/admissions/elr.html](http://www.ucd.ie/registry/admissions/elr.html)

## PHD START DATES

The start date has to be agreed with your potential supervisor. UCD has three Registration dates namely September, January and May.



# STEPS TOWARDS GETTING A PHD POSITION:



## IDENTIFY A SUITABLE SUPERVISOR IN YOUR PREFERRED AREA OF STUDY

You must research your target programme and contact a potential supervisor before you begin the application process. Here are some resources to help you to identify a potential supervisor in UCD.

- UCD School Webpages [www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/collegesandschools/](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/collegesandschools/)
- UCD Research Profiles <https://people.ucd.ie/>
- UCD Strategic Research Priorities [www.ucd.ie/research/whatweresearch/strategicpriorities/](http://www.ucd.ie/research/whatweresearch/strategicpriorities/)
- UCD Graduate Studies Course finder [www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/coursesearch/](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/coursesearch/)

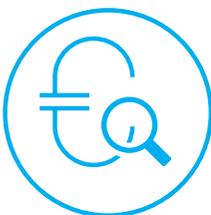


## CONTACT THE POTENTIAL SUPERVISOR VIA EMAIL

Here are some items to include in your initial brief contact email



- Why you wish to enter a PhD Programme
- Ways the academic member of staff's area of research will match your background and education
- Make it clear you are familiar with their work
- Your academic background
- Your academic awards or highlights
- Your research experience
- Ask the potential supervisor if they are accepting new PhD students in the coming academic year



## RESEARCH PHD FUNDING OPTIONS

You are advised to contact the UCD School in which you are interested to ask about current funding possibilities. In addition, please consult the following organisations regarding other sources of funding.

- UCD School Webpages [www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/collegesandschools/](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/collegesandschools/)
- UCD Funding Sources [www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies)
- Irish Research Council [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie)
- Science Foundation Ireland [www.sfi.ie/](http://www.sfi.ie/)
- Health Research Board [www.hrb.ie/](http://www.hrb.ie/)
- Universities Ireland [www.universitiesireland.ie](http://www.universitiesireland.ie)
- NUI [www.nui.ie/awards/postgraduates.asp](http://www.nui.ie/awards/postgraduates.asp)
- Environmental Protection Agency [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)
- Teagasc [www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)
- Irish Cancer Society [www.cancer.ie](http://www.cancer.ie)
- European Commission [http://cordis.europa.eu/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/home_en.html)



For international students, you should first check with grant-awarding bodies in your own country.

For more information on funding and details about how to apply to these schemes, we would advise that you talk to your potential supervisor.

